

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 9, 2007
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: SB 124
AUTHOR: D. Ducheny

BILL SUMMARY: Evasion of Tolls: Registered Owner

This bill, an urgency measure, would redefine the term "registered owner" of a vehicle to include an owner of a vehicle registered in another state to allow collection of toll evasion fines from out-of-state violators.

FISCAL SUMMARY

There is no fiscal impact to the California Highway Patrol or the Department of Motor Vehicles resulting from this bill.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill because it will allow local toll agencies to collect toll evasion fines from owners of vehicles registered in other states.

Analyst/Principal (0744) K. Amann	Date	Program Budget Manager Mark Hill	Date
--------------------------------------	------	-------------------------------------	------

Department Deputy Director	Date
----------------------------	------

Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
----------------------	-----------------------------

D. Ducheny

April 9, 2007

SB 124

ANALYSIS

A. Programmatic Analysis

Current law:

- Holds the registered owner of a vehicle liable for toll evasion penalties.
- Defines “registered owner” as a person registered as the owner by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).
- Prescribes civil penalties of \$100 to \$500 for failure to pay a required toll depending upon whether it is a first, second, or subsequent offense within the year.
- Prescribes a process for notification and collection of fines, ultimately allowing the toll agency to refer the matter to the DMV for collection or to obtain a civil judgment that can be referred to a debt collection agency.

This bill would:

- Redefine “registered owner” to include a person registered as the owner of the vehicle by the appropriate agency or authority of another state, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States.
- Enact this change as an urgency measure.

Discussion: The purpose of the bill is to allow toll agencies to collect toll evasion fines from out-of-state violators. There are six agencies in the state that operate toll bridges, toll roads, and toll lanes. A driver who fails to pay a required toll is subject to a penalty of \$100 for the first violation and \$250 and \$500 for the second and additional violations within a 12-month period. Currently toll agencies do not have collection authority for out-of-state vehicles because registered owner is defined as an owner of a vehicle registered with the California DMV. Although toll agencies could not use DMV to collect toll violation revenue from out-of-state owners, the bill provides agencies with a tool to pursue flagrant violators by obtaining civil judgments which can be referred to debt collection agencies.

B. Fiscal Analysis

There is no fiscal impact to the California Highway Patrol or the Department of Motor Vehicles resulting from this bill.

		SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
Code/Department		LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
Agency or Revenue		CO	PROP						Fund	
Type		RV	98	FC	2006-2007	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	Code
2720/CHP		SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0044
2740/DMV		SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0044
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>									
0044	Motor Vehicle Account, STF									